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Wait, William Bell

New aspects of the uniform type folly

[New York]

1916

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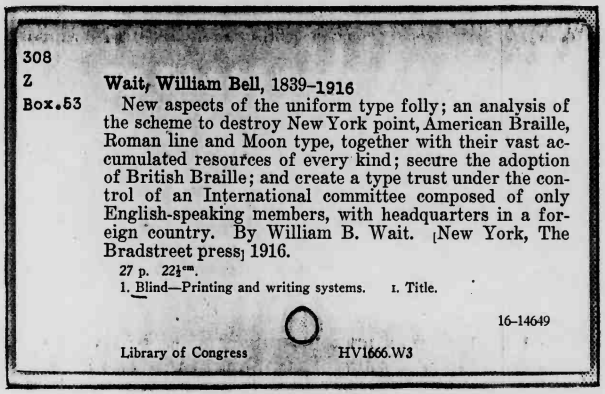

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Wait, William Bell, 1839–1916

New aspects of the uniform type folly; an analysis of the scheme to destroy New York point, American Braille, Roman line and Moon type, together with their vast accumulated resources of every kind; secure the adoption of British Braille; and create a type trust under the control of an International committee composed of only English-speaking members, with headquarters in a foreign country. By William B. Wait. [New York, The Bradstreet press] 1916.

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NEW ASPECTS

OF

THE UNIFORM TYPE FOLLY

An Analysis of the Scheme to Destroy New York Point, American Braille, Roman Line and Moon Type, together with their Vast Accumulated Resources of every kind; Secure the Adoption of British Braille; and Create a Type Trust under the Control of an International Committee Composed of only English-Speaking Members, with Headquarters in a Foreign Country.

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1916

THE BRADSTREET PRESS
148 LAFAYETTE ST., N. Y.

M R H Years 5, 17

AN ANALYSIS

OF THE SCHEME TO DESTROY NEW YORK POINT, AMERICAN BRAILLE, ROMAN LINE AND MOON TYPE, TOGETHER WITH THEIR VAST ACCUMULATED RESOURCES OF EVERY KIND; SECURE THE ADOPTION OF BRITISH BRAILLE; AND CREATE A TYPE TRUST UNDER THE CONTROL OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF ONLY ENGLISH-SPEAKING MEMBERS, WITH HEADQUARTERS IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY

By WILLIAM B. WAIT.

For some ten years past this baseless, illusory subject has been kept before the minds of those who are interested in the publication of embossed books for reading by touch, and an organized, persistent effort has been made ostensibly to devise, adopt and impose upon the American public—and indeed upon English-speaking people everywhere—a tangible type scheme to be labeled "Uniform Type."

In England and in our own country the chase after this "Will o' the Wisp" has been pursued by special committees, but the references in this paper will be only to the work done here.

The object of this paper is very briefly to consider what Uniform Type is; its impracticability; the economic worthlessness of the "Standard Dot System" as shown by the publications of the "Uniform Type Committee" appointed by the Association of WORKERS for the Blind and by the publications of the Commission for the Blind; the ethical elements involved in these publications; the confessed failure of the "Standard Dot System" made by the "Commission" through its executive secretary, Mr. H. Randolph Latimer,

the architect of the system; and finally, the astounding action of this commission in negotiating with and inviting a committee from England to meet them at the Convention of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind at Halifax, in June, 1916, with the avowed purpose of making a "substantial agreement" with the "British" that will "justify us of America"—and especially those few of us then convened as the American Association of Instructors of the Blind—*in making this shameless, senseless surrender on British soil.*

A compelling incentive to this review is found in a circular letter issued by the Commission for the Blind under date of April 15, 1916.

This letter will not surprise those who are familiar with the purposes and intrigues of the group of manipulators who have controlled this movement, and who, at Berkeley, in 1915, through the complacency or lack of fealty of members of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind, succeeded in subordinating this Association so that it, rather than the Association of WORKERS for the Blind, may be the chief instrument in the nominal surrender of "Standard Dot," the sacrifice of New York Point, American Braille and all other systems (resulting in the wanton destruction of vested rights worth a half million dollars), the imposition of British Braille upon American institutions, and its propagation through the control and use of the American Printing House for the Blind and of the United States Subsidy Fund by an "INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE WITH AUTHORITY TO SETTLE ALL MATTERS OF DETAIL RELATIVE TO THE TYPE QUESTION."

Following is the letter: (In order to bring out the import of the letter and for convenience of reference I have used large type in some cases and have numbered paragraphs.)

COMMISSION ON UNIFORM TYPE FOR THE BLIND

REPRESENTING

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF INSTRUCTORS OF THE BLIND

AND

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WORKERS FOR THE BLIND

April 15, 1916.

Superintendents of American Schools for the Blind and Others Concerned in the Question of Uniform Type.

GENTLEMEN:

1. The Commission respectfully calls your attention to its circular letters of September last, November and January, informing you of the progress made in the work committed to its charge.

2. At its first regular meeting, September 2, 1915, the Commission devoted itself principally to matters pertaining to the preparation of books and apparatus relating to Standard Dot, in order to give the profession of both this country and Great Britain ample opportunity to test out, thoroughly, the practical merits of the Standard Dot System. The plans mapped out at this meeting were vigorously followed out during the fall and early winter.

3. AMPLE MATERIAL, consisting of books and apparatus, was sent to Great Britain, and an active correspondence by mail and magazine articles kept up with our British coworkers relative to the merits of Standard Dot and the possibility of its adoption as the uniform type.

4. At the same time, the merits of the system were being TESTED OUT ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES, and during November and December the Secretary spent much time visiting schools and other centers, speaking in the interests of Standard Dot, and seeking to learn the consensus

of opinion both as to the relative merits of the system and to the possibility of its adoption as the uniform type.

5. His report to the Commission at its meeting of DECEMBER 30, 1915, together with the correspondence submitted from reliable persons of this country and Great Britain, led the Commission to pass the following resolutions:

6. WHEREAS, the Standard Dot System has NOT MET WITH FAVOR on the part of our coworkers in Great Britain, and whereas there seems to be LITTLE DISPOSITION IN AMERICA TO ADOPT IT INDEPENDENT OF GREAT BRITAIN.

7. RESOLVED, THAT THIS COMMISSION REFRAIN FOR THE PRESENT FROM FURTHER ACTIVE EFFORT TOWARD THE ADOPTION OF STANDARD DOT AS THE UNIFORM TYPE.

8. RESOLVED, That the Commission invite our coworkers in GREAT BRITAIN to appoint a committee of three which shall have authority to work with a like committee in America toward the improvement of British Braille with the view to the possibility of its adoption as the uniform type of the English-speaking world.

9. Messrs. Burritt, Migel and Latimer were named as special sub-committee to look after this negotiation. Correspondence was at once begun, and as a consequence thereof the sub-committee, at its meeting of March 30, decided to forward to the proper authorities in Great Britain the accompanying suggested changes in BRITISH BRAILLE.

10. The Committee, moreover, purposes to make these suggestions more or less the basis of its report to the Halifax Convention, and HOPES to have such substantial AGREEMENT WITH THE BRITISH by that time as to justify us of America in arriving at a satisfactory conclusion of the question.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) H. R. LATIMER,
Executive Secretary.

With this letter there was sent out a copy of another which was written only fifteen days prior to the foregoing letter and evidently as an introduction to it.

Following is the letter, except those portions referring to the suggested changes in British Braille which have here been omitted:

CHANGES IN "REVISED BRAILLE FOR READING AND WRITING."

Grade 2 (including Grade 1), (Seventh Edition), July, 1915.

Suggested by the Commission on Uniform Type, through its Sub-committee, for the consideration of the British Uniform Type Committee, looking toward the possible adoption of British Braille as the Uniform Type for the blind of the English-speaking World, March 30, 1916.

1. In its endeavor to secure one system of reading and writing for the blind, the UNIFORM TYPE COMMITTEE, of the American Association of WORKERS for the Blind, after years of study and experiment, was convinced that the three punctographic systems—New York Point, American Braille, British Braille—are so nearly equal, so far as their general fitness to fulfill the purposes for which they were designed is concerned, as to make it impossible to demonstrate the absolute superiority of any one over that of the other two.

2. Convinced, further, that the chief defects in each system are of so fundamental a nature as to render their elimination impossible, without causing greater detriment to the system than their presence occasions, the Committee sought to solve the problem by devising a system which should embody as few as possible of the known punctographic defects; while retaining intact all features which have successfully stood the test.

3. THIS SYSTEM, KNOWN AS STANDARD DOT, DOES NOT SEEM, HOWEVER, TO POSSESS SUFFICIENT PRACTICAL ADVANTAGE OVER THE EXISTING TYPES — NEW YORK POINT, AMERICAN BRAILLE, BRITISH BRAILLE—TO COMMAND CON-

FIDENCE ON THE PART OF THE PROFESSION, IN GREAT BRITAIN, EITHER IN THE POSSIBILITY OR THE WISDOM OF ITS ADOPTION AS THE UNIFORM TYPE. Should this prove to be true, the American Committee feels that, if we are to secure the Uniform Type, the problem must be approached at an angle entirely different from that hitherto employed.

4. Instead of striving, as heretofore, to secure for the blind that type which would enable them to do the most efficient and greatest amount of work in a given time, we must now seek the adoption of that one of the three systems—New York Point, American Braille, British Braille—upon which it may prove possible to bring the AUTHORITIES AMONG THE BLIND of the English-speaking world to agree.

5. Approached from this angle, the problem is essentially a politico-economic one—political, in that it consists in an attempt to persuade the advocates of the different systems to abandon, for the sake of uniformity, that which they believe to be the best system; economic, in that it seeks, by eliminating the necessity of duplicating texts in three systems to multiply the money available for embossing books; while, on the other hand, IT INVOLVES A TREMENDOUS LOSS IN EMBOSSED BOOKS AND PLATES, AS WELL AS IN MACHINERY NECESSARILY RENDERED USELESS BY THE CHANGE.

6. THIS SACRIFICE WOULD BE EVEN GREATER WERE STANDARD DOT TO DISPLACE ALL THREE OF THE SYSTEMS; AND THE ADVANTAGES CLAIMED FOR THIS SYSTEM, EVEN BY ITS MOST ARDENT ADVOCATES, DO NOT SEEM, IN THE OPINION OF THE PROFESSION AT LARGE, TO COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS WHICH ITS ADOPTION WOULD THUS INVOLVE.

7. If, as is proverbially affirmed, "possession is nine points of the law," the mind should turn at once to British Braille as a possible Uniform Type.

8. With the exception of the United States and portions of Canada, British, or European, Braille is, to all intents and purposes, the only system of reading and writing for the blind of the civilized world.

9. When, however, we consider that it is more expensive to emboss books in this system than in either New York Point or American Braille; that the American systems conform much more closely to the approved literary and letterpress practices than is the case with the British system as currently embossed, and that a knowledge of either of the American systems, due to the comparatively small number and unambiguous nature of the characters employed, is more easily acquired than is a knowledge of British Braille; we hesitate to make choice of British Braille as the Uniform Type, and earnestly wish that its strategic position were held by one of the American systems.

10. Since, however, it is impossible to believe that such strategic advantage can ever be secured by either of the American systems, and since it is equally IMPOSSIBLE OF BELIEF THAT THE COST OF EMBOSSING IN BRITISH BRAILLE CAN EVER BECOME AS ECONOMIC AS IT IS IN EITHER OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEMS, it remains to consider:

First. Whether the British can be induced, in the use of their system, so to conform to the practices of ordinary print as to make British Braille a correct instrument of education, and an adequate means of acquainting the blind with the authorized practices of the system used by their seeing friends.

Second. Whether the number and ambiguous nature of the characters or signs used in British Braille can be sufficiently reduced as to make a knowledge of that system APPROXIMATELY AS EASY TO ACQUIRE as is a knowledge of either of the American systems.

11. To this end, suspending its efforts for the time being on behalf of Standard Dot, the Commission on Uniform Type, through its sub-committee, respectfully submits, for the consideration of the British Uniform Type Committee, the follow-

ing suggestions, with the hope that British Braille may be so improved as to make its adoption as the Uniform Type not only possible, but also desirable.

(Then follow the suggested changes, which are now omitted.)

12. In conclusion, we respectfully submit:

First. The foregoing suggestions are made with the view so to simplify and strengthen British Braille without impairing its structure, as to lighten the BURDEN, NOW FAR TOO GREAT, imposed upon both teacher and pupil by the necessity of mastering a multitude of rules and exceptions.

Second. That IN SO FAR as the text of British Braille can be made, without detriment to the system itself, to correspond strictly to that of ink-print, just so far will it become a correct instrument of instruction and an adequate substitute for ink-print.

Third. That since the twenty contractions herein suppressed represent a TOTAL SAVING IN SPACE OF LESS THAN THREE-TENTHS OF ONE PER CENT., and since the characters standing for them are of such low speed and accuracy value, their suppression is of little moment to the habitual reader, while it moves a tremendous obstacle from the path of the learner. This fact should be of particular interest just now when so many men, blinded by the war, are struggling to acquire a knowledge of Braille.

Fourth. That the characters herein suggested as substitutes for the contractions now used for to, into, by and were, possess a much higher speed and accuracy value than those now in use, and that the elimination of the lower-level forms greatly increases the speed and accuracy values of the corresponding upper-level forms, while the suppression of rules and exceptions relating to the use of these lower signs is a distinct stride toward simplicity.

Fifth. That the American Committee on Uniform Type is disposed to believe that acquiescence on the part of the British Uniform Type Committee in the foregoing suggested changes

in the British Braille, will lead to the adoption of that system as the Uniform Type of the English-speaking world.

Sixth. That, in the event of an agreement upon a uniform type, the American Committee suggests the establishment of a suitable INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE WITH AUTHORITY TO SETTLE ALL MATTERS OF DETAIL RELATIVE TO THE TYPE QUESTION, and earnestly urges that the BRITISH COMMITTEE take steps looking toward the creation of such an international authority on matters relating to embossed types.

Respectfully submitted March 30, 1916, in response to the REQUEST OF THE BRITISH Uniform Type Committee, March 2, 1916.

Sub-committee,

O. H. BURRITT, *Chairman.*
M. C. MIGEL
H. R. LATIMER, *Secretary.*

These presumptuous and mendacious letters furnish the topics for present consideration.

In embossed printing the term type includes the primary structural elements of scale, size, shape and the like, the construction of the individual signs and their arrangement in groups and classes, a systematic combination of the signs adapted to various uses according to definite rules—the whole comprising what is called a type or system.

The terms type and system are used synonymously, but one should always notice whether the term type is used in a restricted or in a general sense.

Each system employs its own peculiar type, so that if readers of different systems are provided with the same book it must be printed in each of these types; thus, the Bible is printed in no less than six different kinds of type.

Embossed printing is very expensive, and it has been assumed that if all books were published in one common type or system, great economy would be effected and the supply of embossed books greatly increased.

Now uniform type must be that type and system in which all text-books, music, mathematics and general literature are to be printed.

Ample evidence is at hand to prove that uniformity of type in ink-print exerts no influence whatever either to restrict the multiplication of the same book to a common type, or the publication of different works on the same subject.

In visual English, Latin letters are universally used, but notwithstanding this prevailing uniformity, books on almost every subject are printed in many different editions.

In the more restricted field of schoolbooks the same practice prevails, as is shown at the Congressional Library, where may be seen a surprising number of arithmetics, grammars and other text-books issued by many publishers.

In the field of embossed books the same practice is noticeable in the multiplication of arithmetics, grammars and other text-books.

These references will suffice to show that type uniformity is not a factor of the least value in the bookmaking world.

In this case it is evident that type uniformity cannot be established except by some recognized authority qualified to settle all questions and capable of carrying its decisions into effect.

Plainly enough, there is not and cannot be any such just authority, and the only recourse is an organization ASSUMING TO POSSESS ALL NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE AND THE RIGHT TO IMPOSE ITS CREATIONS UPON ALL USERS OF EMBOSSED TYPE.

(See letter to British Committee of March 30, 1916, Paragraph 12, Item 6.)

This is precisely what has been attempted, and it will be well to consider what some of the effects will be if successful.

As economy is the great object of uniformity, it means that there would be no duplication of the outfits used in producing any of the appliances, types, writing-tablets, paper and metal-plate embossing machines and presses, all of which would be procured from one source. There would be but one book on grammar, arithmetic, geometry, algebra, geography, harmony or any other subject, only one version of the Bible, and only one edition of any musical composition or of any literary work.

All schools would be compelled to use the same text-book on arithmetic, grammar and other subjects, and books for general reading by the blind would be restricted to a single author or edition. Obviously, the selection of all books for publication, the place where and the persons by whom all appliances shall be furnished, and all other matters essential to the output of the finished product, would be determined and controlled by the central body.

Let every one who reads this paper remember that if ANY "UNIFORM TYPE" is adopted and honestly accepted, these results will inevitably ensue.

Such conditions would be intolerable and would render utterly useless any attempt to adopt a uniform type and system.

By the letter of April 15, 1916, it appears that this Commission prepared and issued certain books "in order to give the profession of both this country and Great Britain AMPLE OPPORTUNITY to test out, thoroughly, the practical merits of the Standard Dot System."

As the Commission has neglected to furnish any information as to contents, the reasons for their selection, or the relative economic value of Standard Dot, these very important matters will be noticed here.

Up to this time the entire list is as follows: A Drill Key in Standard Dot illustrated by what is falsely marked, in visual type, as New York Point; a Drill Key in Standard Dot illustrated by British Braille; a Drill Key in Standard Dot illustrated by American Braille; Baby Boy, by Horace Hazeltine (a sketch published in the National Magazine, November, 1913, by the Chapple Publishing Co., Boston, Mass.); The Inmate of the Dungeon, by W. C. Morrow, copyright Lippincott, 1894 (reprint Collier & Son, 1915); The Devil and Tom Walker, by Washington Irving; Christmas Carol, Dickens (Standard Dot).

Certain features common to all of these booklets should be specially noted.

There do not appear in ink type the names and addresses of the publishers of the adopted text, or the names and addresses of the embossers and printers.

This general omission of information for the visual reader strongly suggests a desire to evade responsibility.

In this connection a sense of duty compels me to say that genuine true New York Point has not been used in any of these stories, but instead, a distorted and altered simulant of that system has been knowingly used with the intent to disparage and discredit New York Point and to give to Standard Dot an apparent value which it does not really possess.

The scale or pitch of the simulant false New York Point used by the Committee is 16 per cent. larger than the proper normal pitch.

The stories Baby Boy and Inmate of the Dungeon have been specially selected, evidently because of certain unusual advantages the style of composition gives to Standard Dot, and of certain disadvantages which are imposed upon New York Point either genuine or false.

The structure is monosyllabic, which almost wholly prevents the wasteful and annoying rupture of words which unavoidably occurs in texts where polysyllables are used in Standard Dot.

Of course compositions of this class are in no sense representative of the English language.

Another marked peculiarity is the unusual number of proper names, of the pronoun I; of such forms as "No", I've, you've, I'm, and the use of short sentences.

None of these features impose any added burden on Standard Dot or British Braille, while they all require the use of the large fourth base signs of New York Point to a degree entirely unknown in general English literature.

All of which involve the use of capitals and others of the largest signs in New York Point, very greatly in excess of the number found in English generally, while at the same time no such burden is imposed upon the Standard Dot copy.

The result of these tricky practices is that New York Point has been deliberately misrepresented and disparaged, while, by comparison, Standard Dot is given a much higher value than it really possesses.

In support of this statement I ask the attention of the reader to the following facts:

The title page of Baby Boy, as issued by the Commission, informs us that this story was "embossed and printed for the Uniform Type Committee by The Howe Memorial Press, Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind, Watertown, 1915." The printing is done on one side of the leaves in a false simulant of New York Point, apparently the same as the false type used by the Committee in its discredit-

able and elusive test papers, against the use of which my protest in writing was filed with the Committee.

The story was not published in full spelling in these two systems, so that no means was provided for a comparison of the two systems on this fundamental basis.

This story, as issued by the Commission, shows twenty-two contractions in their simulated New York Point, and sixty-seven contractions in the Standard Dot edition. A careful analysis of both gives the following surprising results:

Paper used in Standard Dot with 67 contractions.....	1244.50 sq in.
" " " simulated N. Y. P. with 22 contractions....	1187.50 " "
Excess	57 00 sq. in.
or	4 75%

This proves that notwithstanding all the disadvantages imposed on New York Point by an exaggerated scale, the selection of a style of composition unfavorable to New York Point, waste of space at the end of lines and the use of forty-five more contractions in the Standard Dot than in New York Point, still the Standard Dot is beaten.

Now let us see how Standard Dot compares with honest New York Point.

Paper used in Standard Dot with 67 contractions	1244 50 sq. in.
" " " true N. Y. P. with full spelling..... ..	1132 50 " "
Excess in Standard Dot.....	112.00 sq. in.
or	9.75%
Paper used in Standard Dot with 67 contractjons	1244.50 sq. in.
" " " true N. Y. P. with 22 contractions.....	1012.50 " "
Excess in Standard Dot	232.00 sq. in.
or	22.00%
Paper used in Standard Dot with 67 contractions	1244.50 sq. in.
" " " true N. Y. P. two-side print with 62 contractions	605.00 " "
Excess in Standard Dot.....	639.50 sq. in.
or	105.50%

A brief examination of the story, The Inmate of the Dungeon, will still further illustrate the great inferiority of Standard Dot and the meretricious character of its advocacy.

On the cover the wording is in New York Point, but with no true capitals nor a capital sign. On the title page the wording is in New York Point, with the grossly incorrect capital sign.

It is stated that this story is "in UNCONTRACTED xstandard xdot"; in other words, with full spelling, indicating that this is the largest possible form of Standard Dot.

To the general reader the term uncontracted refers to the use of short forms to condense the text and to facilitate reading; but while verbal contractions have not been used, another method of condensing has been resorted to by using a scale or pitch about 12 per cent. less than that of Standard Dot as shown in Baby Boy, and in all the official Standard Dot Drill Keys.

It should be noted that no announcement of this fact is given in this booklet, and as it has been sent out by the Commission, it will naturally be regarded as the official or true Standard Dot; and if it be compared with the false New York Point used in Baby Boy and in the Drill Keys, the gain to Standard Dot by reduction of scale will be 12 per cent. plus 16 per cent. lost to New York Point by the wrongful expansion of its scale—a total unfair advantage of 28 per cent. for Standard Dot.

This publication shows the following divergencies from the visual text: There is no running headline; paragraphs have been omitted fifty-nine times; there are twenty-two other omissions and superfluous signs and twelve misspelled words.

This story in Standard Dot compared with the story in true New York Point with full spelling, running headline, all

paragraphs, real capitals and conformity in all respects to the visual text gives the following result:

If all of these particulars had been observed in the Standard Dot edition, together with its official authorized scale, it would require in one-side printing 50 per cent. more paper than New York Point.

It is noticeable that this booklet does not state either where, when or by whom it was published.

The unethical quality of this movement, which came into view in Baby Boy and Inmate of the Dungeon, will be further shown in the Drill Keys, and attention is called to the advertisement on their covers and title pages. The respective wording on the covers in ink-print is, New York Point Standard Dot Drill Key; American Braille Standard Dot Drill Key; British Braille Standard Dot Drill Key; having Roman capitals and lower-case letters in ink type impressed by a rubber stamp.

It should be noted that these words have not been embossed on the covers.

The impression unconsciously left by this ink-print lettering is that each system uses capitals in the proper way, which, in fact, is not the case, inasmuch as New York Point is the only Point System in which the proper use of capitals, as in visual practice, is possible.

If, however, the words had been embossed on the covers an observant person would have seen that New York Point uses true capitals, which all of the other systems fail to do, and this apparently furnished the motive for not giving the titles in both ink and embossed type.

Turning now to the title pages of the three Drill Keys, it will be seen that no ink types have been used, the embossed text of each being as follows:

the standard dot drill key
authorized by the
commission on uniform type

prepared by
h. randolph latimer, ph. b.
head teacher
maryland school for the blind
overlea, maryland

embossed at the
pennsylvania institution for
the instruction of the blind
philadelphia
1915

Let the reader keep in mind that American Braille and Standard Dot use the same capital sign; the British Braille uses a different capital sign, while genuine New York Point uses real capitals.

In preparing the title pages the capital sign has been omitted from the British Braille and no capitals have been used in New York Point, while in the American Braille Drill Key capitals have been indicated forty-five times.

In British Braille the first word begins with small t, thus "the"; in American Braille the first five words are indicated as capitalized throughout "THE STANDARD DOT DRILL KEY"; while in New York Point the first word "The" is replaced by an uncapitalized word sign ⠄⠄ in violation of correct usage and of the long-standing rules of New York Point.

Then in the very important matter of contraction, seventy-one are given in the Standard Dot Drill Key, while only twenty-nine, or forty-six less than the actual number seventy-five, are given for New York Point.

This is not a fair representation of the facts and implies that in the matter of contraction New York Point is greatly inferior to Standard Dot, which is not the case.

Another notable feature of the New York Point Standard Dot Drill Key is the omission of any reference to music and mathematics—an omission which saves Standard Dot from a hopeless and discreditable comparison with New York Point.

One of the most reprehensible features of this so-called New York Point Drill Key is the substitution of an expanded pitch, or scale, in place of the true scale.

This same discreditable act was practiced by the Uniform Type Committee, who clandestinely introduced it into their test sheets, and against which I filed a written protest with the Committee as soon as I had observed the deception, directly after the opening of the test at the New York City School, and the nature, method and effects of this cheat were fully set out in my paper of June, 1915, analyzing the doings of the Uniform Type Committee.

And now, in the face of these misleading features of the Drill Keys and booklets, it is boldly announced that the Drill Keys were prepared by a member of the Commission (also a member of the Association of Instructors); that the work was "authorized by the Commission for the Blind" (four out of five of whose members are members of the Association of Instructors), and that the embossing of these unfair and misleading Drill Keys was done at the Pennsylvania Institution, Overbrook, under the direction of another member of the Commission, who is also a member of the Association of Instructors.

Let us now turn to a wholly untechnical but highly important and interesting matter in connection with the composition, methods and plans of this Commission for the Blind:

Nominally, it is composed of two committees of three members each—one committee from the Association of Instructors, the other from the Association of Workers.

If properly constituted the Commission would consist of six different persons, whereas the six places are filled by five persons.

The Instructors Committee consists of two principals and one teacher, while the Workers Committee consists of one principal, one teacher and one lay member. Thus, the Instructors Association furnishes all the members of its committee and two members of the Workers Committee, one of whom is in each of these two committees.

It should be specially noted that by this plan of interlocking, which is a favorite instrument for collusion and duplicity, a majority of these constituent committees, as well as a majority of the Commission which they form, are members of the Instructors Association, thus giving to that organization the control of the action of each. BUT LET IT BE REMEMBERED THAT WITH CONTROL ALSO COMES RESPONSIBILITY.

Let it also be noticed that the circumstances of this entire movement show that the SHIFTING OF CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY from the Workers Association and the Uniform Type Committee to the Association of Instructors and a Commission controlled by its members, was the consummation of the original plan delayed in execution much longer than had been hoped.

At its Jacksonville meeting, June, 1913, certain resolutions were adopted, the first of which declared:

> That the Association adopt, for itself officially and individually, and take all measures practicable to secure the adoption by publishing houses, educational institutions, libraries, etc., for the blind, in this country and abroad, of:

(a) The British Braille alphabet and the American Braille capital prefix, with such modifications, if any, as shall be in accordance with the findings of your committee, and that the development of the complete system be in harmony with the principles of three-level, variable-base and frequency of recurrence, the system to be known as the Standard Dot System.

Do the members of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind realize that through their members on this Commission they are now carrying out the plans and purposes of the Association of Workers as declared in the resolution above quoted? Do they realize that the formation of this Commission and the subordination of the Instructors Association in the interest of this movement are chief among the "measures practicable" to accomplish the purposes set forth in these resolutions?

The remarkably expeditious operations of this interlocking Commission are astounding. Its first meeting was held SEPTEMBER 2, 1915, the first work being the preparation of books and apparatus in order to give the profession of both this country and Great Britain "AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO TEST OUT THOROUGHLY the practical merits of the Standard Dot System."

Now, a test means an examination and comparison; a critical trial and proof of qualities; in this case requiring a working knowledge of all four of these systems. For this arduous task the Commission prepared apparatus, three Drill Keys and the following embossed booklets:

Baby Boy,
The Inmate of the Dungeon,
The Devil and Tom Walker,
Dickens' Christmas Carol.

The price of one set of these books, a New York Point Tablet and a Braille Writing Tablet would be at least $5.00. One hundred pupils would make 10 classes of 10 pupils each, and ten of these sets, costing $50.00, would give each pupil a half hour lesson each day.

The Commission does not inform us how many individuals or schools were provided with this outfit, but say that "the merits of the system were being tested out ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES," with such results that by DECEMBER 30 the Commission was led to adopt the following:

"RESOLVED, That this Commission refrain for the present from further active effort toward the adoption of Standard Dot as the uniform type.

"RESOLVED, That the Commission invite our coworkers in Great Britain to appoint a committee of three which shall have authority to work with a like committee in America toward the improvement of British Braille with the view to the possibility of its adoption as the uniform type of the English-speaking world."

It should be pointed out that a long and expensive testing operation was performed by the Uniform Type Committee, of which Mr. Latimer was an active member, and that Standard Dot was adopted "officially and individually" as the one and only type to be used, and therefore this Commission has no option or authority in this matter; it has but one duty, and that is to establish Standard Dot.

Moreover, no time limit was set within which the Commission should complete this work, and therefore it had no right to suspend its efforts or seek to promote any other system.

Obviously, it would be preposterous for these gentlemen to plead ignorance on these matters, and it therefore follows that there must have been some STRONG PREEXISTING MOTIVE, some

immediate purpose that impelled them to take such precipitate action.

The circulars recently issued by the Commission, and which have been previously given in full, furnish a key to the situation.

The main purpose is to take advantage of this meeting on BRITISH SOIL for the destruction of New York Point and of American Braille (each of which is much superior to either British Braille or its equivalent, Standard Dot), and to adopt the British-Braille-Standard Dot as the uniform type of the British Empire and the United States.

Then there is the appalling purpose of destroying the invaluable treasures of literature, music and apparatus which have been created during the past fifty years at the cost of infinite study and labor and at an expenditure of more than $500,000. This diabolical project is admitted by the Commission when it says: "It involves a tremendous loss in embossed books and plates, as well as in machinery necessarily rendered useless by the change."

To reproduce this property at the prices now ruling would cost at least $1,000,000, and to reproduce it in either British Braille or Standard Dot would cost double that amount.

It will be well here to remind the Principals of the Schools throughout the United States that each school has a vested interest in this property which it is under obligation to protect. Furthermore, the State of Kentucky, the Government of the United States, and the people who pay the taxes that have provided these invaluable treasures, also have a vested interest in this property.

Destruction of property interests of this kind can be effected indirectly and at very little cost—neglect and disuse often being the only agents required.

On the other hand, the replacement of the disused and wasted property will cost a large amount of money.

It is very remarkable that while the Commission deliberately recognizes the irreparable loss of property and vested rights which the audacious and shameful action they propose would cause, they fail to present any plans for replacing them. This reticence does not indicate that the matter has been overlooked, for three members of this Commission as principals are trustees of the American Printing House for the Blind, and are fully aware of its resources and management.

The Commission also knows that a very close relation has always existed between the Association of Instructors and the Printing House, that the Secretary and Superintendent has also been Principal of the Kentucky School for the Blind and for many years, Secretary of the Instructors Association, and that any opinion as to policy expressed by the Instructors has generally been accepted by the Local Board of the Printing House, and THIS IS THE REASON WHY FOUR MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ARE FROM THE INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION while only one is exclusively from the Workers Association.

The principal events that may be expected at Halifax are the adoption of British-Braille-Standard Dot as the uniform type of the BRITISH EMPIRE (including the United States); the treacherous sacrifice of New York Point and of American Braille, and the neglect, waste and destruction of the unequaled and invaluable resources existing in these and all other systems.

The next step in order, probably, will be taken at the annual meeting of the Printing House for the Blind on July 3, when a Secretary and Superintendent—both of which offices have heretofore been held by one person—are to be elected.

The local Printing House Board consists of only seven members, and in view of the deference with which the

opinions of the principals, as *ex-officio* members, has always been regarded, it is possible that if three or four British Braillists attend this meeting, they might be able to elect an ardent British Braillist as Secretary and Superintendent, and in this way the control of the great resources of the American Printing House would be turned to the service of British Braille, and UNDER DIRECTION OF A FOREIGN COMMITTEE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY, if the presumptuous and senseless plans of the Commission are carried out.

In view of these facts, and of the official and personal obligations imposed upon the members of the Workers Association, it seems that the Commission must have had some theory to justify themselves in their premeditated action.

Up to the time of the Berkeley meeting, where the Instructors Association was trapped, it had taken no part in the Uniform Type movement. Was it assumed that the resolutions and instructions of the Workers Association are not binding upon members of the Instructors Association? Was that the reason why two out of the three members from the Workers Committee are instructors?

On that assumption an entirely new situation has been created. The Commission, which on the surface appears to have an equal number of members from each of the Associations, has been packed with members from the Instructors Association, one of whom is its President and a member of the Executive Committee, thus shifting the whole responsibility to the Instructors Association.

This theory will explain the automatic action of the Commission, but it involves false premises, perverted ethics, wrong conclusions and cannot be accepted.

In view of the facts and with due regard to truth, justice, the welfare of the blind and the public, it would now appear

to be proper for the Association to table any report presented by this Commission; discharge the Committee; rescind the action appointing it; disavow the acts of the Commission; exclude the Uniform Type question from all further consideration; condemn the practice of interlocking and affiliation between members of different Associations; reject the proposal to substitute the bigness of the British Empire as in any sense a reason for the adoption of a system, either within or without that Empire, and disavow the project to establish a PUNCTOGRAPHIC MONOPOLY AND TYPE TRUST under the control of a committee either international or local.

The inevitable end of "politico-economic" stratagems is nation-wide stultification, mental inertia in our schools and among the blind, and incalculable, irreparable ruin!

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